AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle sprocket adapted to rotate around a rotational axis, wherein the sprocket comprises:

a sprocket body;

a plurality of teeth extending radially outwardly from the sprocket body and dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain;

a spline extending radially inwardly from the sprocket body; ~~and~~

wherein the spline includes a radially outer surface facing radially outwardly; and

wherein the radially outer surface of the spline faces a radially inner surface of the sprocket body when viewed perpendicular to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 2 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 3 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the inner surface is substantially straight in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The sprocket according to claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the inner surface is substantially parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 5 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion and a second side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, and wherein the second side wall portion is laterally offset from the first side wall portion.

CLAIM 6 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 5 wherein the second side wall portion overlaps the outer surface when viewed in a direction parallel to the rotational axis.

CLAIM 7 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 6 wherein the second side wall portion is spaced apart from the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 8 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 6 wherein the spline is offset from the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 9 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 5 wherein the spline extends from the second side wall portion and terminates at a free end, and wherein the free end is spaced apart from a first side wall of the first side wall portion that faces in a same direction as the free end.

CLAIM 10 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 1 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion and a second side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, and wherein the second side wall portion and the spline together form a composite spline.

CLAIM 11 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 10 wherein a thickness of the spline in a direction of the rotational axis is greater than a thickness of the second side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 12 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 11 wherein a thickness of the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis substantially equals a thickness of the second side wall portion in the direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 13 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A bicycle sprocket adapted to rotate around a rotational axis, wherein the sprocket comprises:

a sprocket body;

a plurality of teeth extending radially outwardly from the sprocket body and dimensioned to engage a bicycle chain;

a spline extending radially inwardly from the sprocket body, wherein the spline has a root portion ~~extending~~ and a radially inner portion, wherein the root portion extends radially inwardly of the sprocket body and has a side wall facing in a rotational direction, and wherein the radially inner portion ~~extending~~ extends radially inwardly of the root portion and has a side wall facing in the rotational direction; and

wherein a thickness of the radially inner portion of the spline in a direction parallel to the rotational axis ~~that~~ is greater than a thickness of the root portion of the spline in a direction of the rotational axis.

CLAIM 14 (ORIGINAL): The sprocket according to claim 13 wherein the sprocket body has a side wall that includes a first side wall portion, wherein the plurality of teeth extend radially outwardly from the first side wall portion, wherein a thickness of the first side wall portion in a direction of the rotational axis substantially equals a thickness of the root portion of the spline in a direction of the rotational axis.